

Pacific SIDS Statement

- Thank you Mr. Chairman.
- The Pacific SIDS (namely, Fiji, Nauru, Niue, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu) are happy to participate in this event.

Energy

- An unacceptably high percentage of people in Pacific SIDS do not have access to modern energy supplies.
- Concrete actions must be taken to improve access to reliable, affordable and environmentally sound energy supplies in PSIDS.
- Pacific SIDS, like all other SIDS, are heavily dependent on petroleum and fossil fuels for meeting most of their energy needs. The dependence on a single source of energy is extremely costly (up to 30-40% of national budgets) and compounds Pacific SIDS mounting vulnerability to external shocks outside of their control;
- Areas with the largest potential for economic growth, such as tourism, fisheries, agriculture and forestry are highly dependant on fossil fuel based technology throughout the entire value chain.
- While renewable energy has potential as an alternative source of energy for Pacific SIDS, the implementation and maintenance costs are major barriers, for which SIDS need dedicated international support.
- Consequently, security of energy supply for sustainable development is a critical issue and Pacific SIDS priority energy areas must be addressed urgently and comprehensively. Policy, technical and financial assistance is required, to;
 - Secure an affordable source of Petroleum products and to effectively manage national strategic reserves against supply side disruptions. [This covers possible subsidies from oil producing/oil supplying nations]
 - Overcome the efficiency and cost penalties imposed by the diseconomies of isolation and the lack of economies of scale in the distribution, storage and handling of petroleum products in the Pacific.
 - Overcome the high sunk cost implications of large scale renewable energy projects that aim to displace fossil dependency in urban centers.
 - Increase the use and affordability of appropriate renewable energy technologies for rural populations in particular for lighting, water reticulation and health and school centers.

- Assist in the establishment, management and sustainable land management practices for sources for Biofuel production. Two examples, Vanuatu and Marshall Islands using coconut oil.
- Improve energy efficiency and conservation – energy efficient appliances and light bulbs
- Implement appropriate renewable energy technologies and systems that are durable, sustainable, affordable and suitable for the islands [appropriate technology transfer] – referenced: energy and gender and the rural areas
- Improve access to financing modalities (public and private) for the increased establishment of renewable energy systems.